

Meeting Minutes WATER RESOURCES ADVISORY COMMISSION **Recreation Issues Workshop**

South Florida Water Management District 3301 Gun Club Road

Storch Conference Room, Building B-1, 3rd Floor Monday, May 22, 2006 4:00 pm - 7:00 pm



1. **Welcome and Introductions**

Around the table introductions, Mr. Barton thanked everyone for being here.

Rob Barton, Chair

Rob Barton, Chair

2. **Member Issues**

Byron Maharrey – New law has been passed by state legislature net lost of hunting lands.

Fred Davis – This is a topic for next meeting; it hasn't been signed by the Governor yet.

Rob Barton - I will be more up to date as I am very involved with this issue.

Alex Urquia - SFWMD owns a lot of land in Miami-Dade County, and I saw a lot of no trespassing signs. This land has been used for hunting for a long time. Can we address this?

Fred Davis – B.J. Katell will addressed the issue during his presentation.

Rick Smith – There is an agreement being worked on between Collier County and the District on 640 acres to be used for ORV use. Before the next meeting, we will have more definite news. On the fishing issues: there are tests going on the L67, A&C canals, and a model will be put in place on the A canal which is the most important. The DEP, EPA and the District are working on a memorandum that would determine how the reservoirs could be classified according to the federal Clean Water Act and the water quality standards.

Rick Persson - All other areas are catch and release; this issue should not come into the picture.

3. **Land Stewardship Division Update**

- Stewardship Update
- Status of Public Use Rule

No decision regarding recreation and hunting in the Kissimmee Chain of Lakes, we haven't work out details; hopefully it will be done within 90 days **Questions and answers**

There were questions regarding the closing of C38, will it be a complete closure? How will it affect hunting? Is there going to be a 1000 yard safety zone? When the canal is closed how will the water travel south? In the Kissimmee area, airboaters want equal access, so they are asking to allow Div. of Land Stewardship, **SFWMD**

Fred Davis, Dir.,

airboat access on idle only.

<u>Fred Davis</u> – We are trying to keep a 1000 yard safety zone as we are trying not to get hunting too close to the construction area. The water will likely travel south through the marshes. The airboat issue will be put on the agenda for next meeting.

Hunting Opportunities on Vacant Lands Questions and answers

Q: In the C23/24 Reservoir area, the citrus grove areas can they be for small game hunting only? Can it be done? How about bird hunting? Is this area going to be flooded? When it does, is fishing going to be allowed? The Cypress Creek area, any thoughts of opening this area for archery only? In Dade County any hunting allowed in the area south of Richmond Heights?

BJ Kattel, Staff Recreation Planner

A: The C23/24 area would be small game hunting only, no rifles. Construction on the reservoir is scheduled to start 2010. In the areas south of Richmond Heights, no hunting is allowed because of safety issues, road access, and there still are some active commercial leases.

In the Cypress Creek area, hunting will not be allowed. Palm Beach County does not allow hunting on any of their public lands unless designated.

Recreation Facilities Planning Update

- STAs
- Acceler8 Update
- CERP Master Recreation Plan

STA2 can't be use for hunting until next year because of the federal water quality lawsuit Consent Decree and our deadline for construction under that Decree. The Governing Board feels strongly we are doing the best to get you access but if we don't meet our deadline the federal government could take over and will manage our waters.

When the contractor is done next May, this will be a good hunting area. We will try to get public access from US27 and west in from Loxahatchee.

<u>Bob Barton</u> – Recreation in STA2 would be allowed after the project is done. The good of the project overrides everything else, if we have to go without hunting for one year to benefit 20 years I am for it. We always have to get the project first.

<u>Rick Smith</u> – This decision came from Tommy Strowd, Ken Ammon and the Governing Board. I will be glad to set up a meeting with them to discuss their decision regarding the STA2.

<u>Jerry Krenz</u> - We had an employee, Harold A. Campbell, that died in an accident on Highway 27 and the Governing Board has asked that we incorporate a memorial in his name. We've named the boat access on STA 3-4 after him. Alligator hunting has been approved by the Governing Board

Jerry Krenz, Sr. Planner, CERP, SFWMD

in STA5, permit amount is been raised to 50. The season consists of four, 1-week sessions from August 15 until November 1. The permit allows hunting for different locations. Duck hunting is going for Governing Board approval in July.

<u>Alex Urquia</u> – From the people I represent in Miami-Dade County, we will be patient we want opportunities but we also want this for the future.

Adjourn – 7:00 p.m.